

BPI

Business and Professional People For the Public Interest

*U.S. Steel
Gary, Ind.*

25 April 1974

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Ken Flaxman,
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Donald A. Wallgren
Federal Activities Branch
Surveillance and Monitoring Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1 N. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Wallgren:

I am enclosing a copy of our comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the proposed U.S. Steel dredging at Gary, Indiana.

We have asked them to renote the application after correcting the numerous deficiencies in the application and notice.

In addition to the matters set forth in our comments to the Corps, the following might be helpful to you in understanding our position on this application.

The U.S. Steel containment area into which the spoils are to be placed has long been a source of contamination of the lake. Changing the outfalls is probably not going to help significantly. If the dredged materials contain fine particles, it is unlikely that they are going to settle out within the containment area. This means they will get out into the lake, since U.S. Steel proposes absolutely no treatment other than settling between the point where the spoils will be put in the basin at the west and the outfalls at the east. In order to avoid contamination of the lake, not only from this dredging operation but from subsequent rainfall on materials already in the containment area, we think it appropriate for U.S. Steel to construct a rapid sand filter prior to the outfalls, with consideration given for pH control and an aerator because of the constituents of the dredging includes very high COD.

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Consideration should also be given to obtaining data on the rate of dredging so that some estimates can be made on how much material will be likely to flow out the outfalls at a particular time.

We hope that EPA's response to the Corps on this matter will take a strong position that the applicant be required to ensure that water quality in the area of the lake immediately off the outfalls not be degraded, and in this respect the Corps might find it helpful if your identified for them what the applicable water quality criteria for the parameters we have identified in our 24 April letter are for that area of the lake.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David Dinsmore Comey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Dinsmore Comey
Director of Environmental Research